

This is an issue that the critics of the Boy Scouts somehow suggest that the organization lacks a certain amount of diversity, which is not true. If we just go to the Boy Scout Web site and look at their policy statement on diversity, it says more than 90 years ago the Boy Scouts of America was founded on the premise of teaching boys moral and ethnical values through an outdoor program that challenges them and teaches them respect for nature, one another and themselves. Scouting has always represented the best in community, leadership and service.

The Boy Scouts of America has selected its leaders using the highest standards because strong leaders and positive role models are so important to the healthy development of youth. Today, the organization still stands firm that their leaders exemplify the values outlined in the Scout oath and law.

It goes on, on June 28, 2000, the United States Supreme Court reaffirmed that the Boy Scouts of America's standing as a private organization with the right to set its own membership and leadership standards.

The Boy Scouts say here in their policy statement that Boy Scouts of America respects the rights of people and groups who hold values that differ from those encompassed in the Scout oath and law, and the BSA makes no effort to deny the rights of those whose views differ to hold their attitudes or opinions.

It goes on, it is a very nice statement, one that I think the Scouts should be proud of, and that all of us here in Congress should keep in mind when this unfortunate legislation makes its way through the process to revoke the charter of the Boy Scouts of America, because the Democrats have decided that this is an organization that no longer warrants support from the Congress and from the Federal Government.

So my message to Members is there is a large and growing coalition of us who will rise to the defense of the Scouts and do everything we can to make sure that the young men that are part of the organization are led by competent, capable, trustworthy leaders that are able to conduct themselves in a way that is consistent with the Scout oath.

I just want to mention that, Mr. Speaker, for the RECORD it is a very serious issue and it is unfortunate that we have to have this debate, and I think it is going to probably escalate in terms of the intensity as time goes on.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. JEFFERSON (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BENTSEN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. INSLEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BENTSEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. STABENOW, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DUNCAN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. METCALF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WOLF, for 5 minutes, today.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, September 11, 2000, at noon.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

9890. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-402, "Closing of a Portion of a Public Alley in Square 4337, S.O. 95-94, Act of 2000" received September 07, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9891. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-385, "Steve Sellow Way, N.E., Designation Act of 2000" received September 07, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9892. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-384, "Andrew J. Allen Way, N.E. Designation Act of 2000" received September 07, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9893. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-396, "Seniors Protection Amendment Act of 2000" received September 07, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9894. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-386, "Diabetes Health Insurance Coverage Expansion Act of 2000" received September 07, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9895. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-397, "Environmental License Tag Amendment Act of 2000" received September 07, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9896. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-399, "Water and Sewer Authority Collection Enhancement Amend-

ment Act of 2000" received September 07, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9897. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-400, "Conflict of Interest Amendment Act of 2000" received September 07, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9898. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-401, "Reinsurance Credit and Recovery Act of 2000" received September 07, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9899. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-404, "Insurance Agents and Brokers Licensing Revision Amendment Act of 2000" received September 07, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9900. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-403, "Metrobus Ticket Transfer Amendment Act of 2000" received September 07, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9901. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-389, "Drug Abuse, Alcohol Abuse, and Mental Illness Insurance Coverage Amendment Act of 2000" received September 07, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9902. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-387, "State Education Office Establishment Act of 2000" received September 07, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9903. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-418, "Freedom From Cruelty to Animals Protection Amendment Act of 2000" received September 07, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9904. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-407, "Insurer and Health Maintenance Organization Self-Certification Act of 2000" received September 07, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9905. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-406, "Sentencing Reform Amendment Act of 2000" received September 07, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

9906. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Kentucky Regulatory Program [KY-226-FOR] received August 31, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

9907. A letter from the Assistant Director, Communications, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Notice of Interim Final Supplementary Rules on Public Land in Utah [UT-030-1652-PA-24 1A] (RIN: 1004-AD40) received August 31, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

9908. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of General Counsel & Legal Policy, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Office's final rule—Proposed Exemption